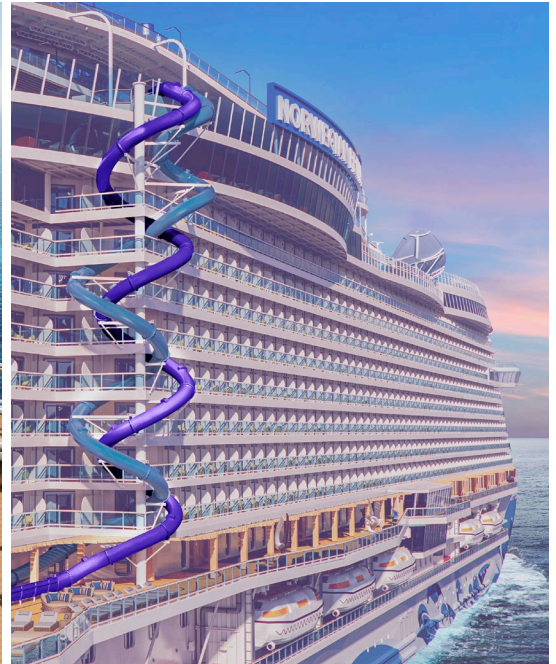


**It's time to discover
Norwegian Viva**



**Spain eases Covid rules
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Spain eases Covid rules for families

21 February 2021: Families can enjoy more relaxing travel to Spain following the country's approval of easier health entry requirements for non-EU



travellers 12 to 17 years.

It means travellers from countries where access to the Covid vaccines is difficult or not yet possible for young adults or children 12 to 17 need only to submit a negative covid NAAT molecular nucleic acid amplification test (RT-PCR or similar) 72 hours before their arrival in Spain. They do not need to present a vaccination certificate.

Likewise, children under 12 years of age, who travel with an adult, are still not subject to any health requirement, same as before.

Spain is responding to the problematic situation that impacted families with children who are not eligible for vaccination. Under previous rules, parents vaccinated against Covid-19 were free to enter the country but travelling with their children became troublesome for families with children and young

adults who are not eligible for vaccine programmes.

The revision means families can reunite with friends and relatives in Spain or enjoy an Easter holiday break.

[For the most updated information about Travel Safe to Spain.](#)

India eases travel rules

16 February 2022: Creative Travel, a leading tour operator in India, welcomes the country's decision to lift most travel restrictions effective 14 February.

India first initiated reopening procedures last October but was forced to declare a temporary pause due to the emergence of the more contagious Omicron variant.

"We are super excited to announce that from 14 February, the Government of India has removed many of the arrival restrictions," the company's owners Rajeev and Rohit Kohli commented. "This has made travel to India so much easier than before. It's a wonderful Valentine's gift for us in Indian tourism."

According to the latest ruling, there is no quarantine requirement for passengers arriving on international flights. Passengers with a valid certificate demonstrating they have completed a full vaccination schedule for Covid-19 do not need to undergo a pre-arrival RT-PCR test.

According to government guidelines, those vaccinated with WHO-recognised vaccines or residents in countries with mutual recognition of vaccine certificates with India do not have to present a test on arrival effective 14 February. Instead, international passengers are requested to "self-monitor their health" for 14 days following their arrival.

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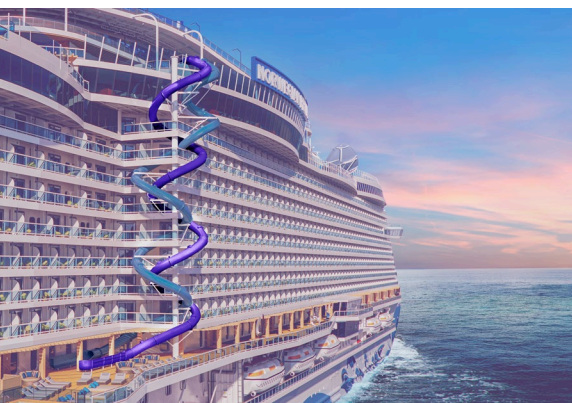
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It's time to discover Norwegian Viva

21 February 2022: Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL) has unveiled Norwegian Viva, the next ship in its brand-new Prima Class that will cruise Mediterranean destinations in June 2023.



Providing guests with elevated experiences including more wide-open spaces, thoughtful and stunning design and exceptional service, Norwegian Viva will begin sailing Mediterranean itineraries in June 2023, homeporting in key Southern

European port cities including Lisbon, Portugal; Venice (Trieste) and Rome (Civitavecchia), Italy; and Athens (Piraeus), Greece. She will then sail the Southern Caribbean for her 2023-2024 northern hemisphere winter season offering warm-weather getaways from San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Mirroring the upscale design and structure of her record-breaking sister ship Norwegian Prima, Norwegian Viva, also built by renowned Italian shipbuilder Fincantieri in Marghera, Italy, will debut at 965 feet long, 142,500 gross tons and accommodate 3,219 guests at double occupancy. Travellers will live up every second of their journey in the most spacious accommodations, including the brands' largest inside, ocean view and balcony category staterooms.

The world-class vessel will not only offer the highest staffing

levels and space ratio of any new cruise ship in the contemporary and premium cruise categories and the largest variety of suite categories available at sea but will also boast a redefined The Haven by Norwegian, NCL's ultra-premium key card only access ship-within-a-ship concept. The Haven's public areas and 107 suites designed by Piero Lissoni, one of Italy's most renowned designers, will feature an expansive sundeck, a stunning infinity pool overlooking the ship's wake and an outdoor spa with a glass-walled sauna and cold room.

The Prima Class' varied recreational activities also make their elevated comeback on Norwegian Viva with only-available-on-Prima-Class experiences, including the fastest freefall drop dry slides at sea with The Rush and The Drop and the largest three-level racetrack at sea with the Viva Speedway.

Norwegian Viva will feature Ocean Boulevard, the 44,000 square foot outdoor walkway which wraps around the entire ship; Indulge Food Hall featuring 11 varieties of eateries; The Concourse boasting an outdoor sculpture garden; expansive pool decks and infinity style pools at Infinity Beach and Oceanwalk, showcasing glass bridges above water.

Norwegian Cruise Line president and chief executive

influence the aesthetic of various restaurants, staterooms and public areas.

“Norwegian Viva, the second of six Prima Class vessels being built with us, reinforces the great collaboration between Norwegian Cruise Line and Fincantieri,” said Luigi Matarazzo, General Manager Merchant Ships Division at Fincantieri. “We were extremely satisfied that Norwegian Prima, the first of the new class, earned record-

The first two Prima Class vessels, Norwegian Prima and Norwegian Viva will feature cutting-edge alternative technologies, such as a NOx reduction system (SCR), that reduce the ship’s overall environmental impact. SCR catalysts filter out sulphur oxides up to 98% and nitrogen oxides up to 90%, ensuring the vessels meet Tier III NOx compliance. Further, they will be equipped with an Exhaust Gas Cleaning System (EGCS), an Advanced Wastewater Treatment System to treat and clean all wastewater to meet stringent international standards and Cold Ironing functionality to connect to onshore power grids to further reduce emissions while in port. For more information about the company’s environmental, governance and social efforts, please click [here](#).



[Itineraries on the brand's newest ship](#)

officer Harry Sommer said: “Norwegian Viva sets the standard in the premium segment, illustrating our commitment to pushing boundaries in four main areas: wide open space, service that puts guests first, thoughtful design and experiences beyond expectation. We have taken everything our guests love to the next level with this brand-new class of ships designed with them in mind.”

Norwegian Viva will boast eye-catching hull art designed by Italian graffiti and sculpture artist Manuel Di Rita, commonly known as “Peeta,” who also illustrated the exceptional hull design on Norwegian Prima. World-class architects who helped design Norwegian Prima, including Rockwell Group, SMC Design and Miami-based Studio Dado, also have returned to



breaking bookings, and we are excited to see how Norwegian Viva will live up to her sister ship. As we proved our resilience during these challenging times, this announcement represents another testament to Fincantieri’s global leadership role in the cruise sector.”

For more information about the company’s award-winning 17-ship fleet and worldwide itineraries, or to book a cruise, please contact a travel professional, call Hong Kong on +852 2165 6000 and Southeast Asia on +65 3165 1680 or visit www.ncl.com.

Philippines optimistic on inbound arrivals

25 February 2022: The Philippines welcomed 21,974 travellers during 10 days since 10 February when the country reopened its borders to international travellers, according to the Department of Tourism.

tourism industry,” Puyat stressed. “DOT continues to be optimistic that this trend will be sustained and will support not only the tourism industry but also the recovery and growth of our economy,” she added.

the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) Resolution No. 162.

For a full list of countries whose national vaccination certificated the Philippines recognizes so far, visit <https://visitor.tourism.gov.ph/vaxcert/>

Meanwhile, Philippine Airlines says it is confident it can reinstate flights to achieve pre-pandemic levels, as Covid-19 cases are now decreasing.

The airline’s spokesperson Cielo Villaluna told the Manila Standard that before the pandemic lockdown, the airline operated an average of 300 flight sectors daily and remains confident that it can begin the process to reach pre-pandemic levels later this year.

At the moment, the airline serves 32 international and 27 domestic destinations.

In March, the airline will also increase flights between Manila and Zamboanga from nine to 11 flights weekly and increase flights between Cebu and Cagayan de Oro from five to seven flights weekly.

PAL’s services to Guam will also increase from two to three flights a week; to Kuala Lumpur – from three to seven flights a week. Singapore flights increase from five to seven flights a week; Jakarta from three to four flights a week; Bangkok from three to seven flights a week.

Data came from One Health Pass, which processes all foreign arrivals to the country entering at gateway airports. Of the total, just under half(10,074) were Philippine citizens, and the balance (11,900) were foreign tourists.

According to the Department of Tourism statement, Tourism Secretary Berna Romulo-Puyat expressed optimism with the latest figures while hoping for a “much better outcome in the succeeding months”.

“The recent influx of tourists reflect foreign tourists’ enthusiasm towards visiting our country, which in turn will accelerate the revival of our

Tourists from the USA make up the largest chunk of foreign tourists during the 10 days, with 5,516 arrivals. Canada followed with 1,366; 918 from the UK; 891 from Australia; 859 from South Korea; 572 from Vietnam; 459 from Japan; and 447 from Germany.

Puyat disclosed that the Covid-19 vaccine certificates are accepted from Egypt, Maldives, Palau, Albania, Estonia, Greece, Malta, and Uruguay as proof of vaccination required upon entry to the Philippines.

The eight countries are in addition to the previously approved 12 countries based on the Inter-Agency Task Force for



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Sabah dives for Turkish travellers

25 February 2022: Turkey is putting Sabah on its map to promote the state as an ideal destination for scuba diving vacation.

A Turkish delegation led by Turkey's Ambassador to Malaysia Dr Merve Safa Kavakçı arrived in Sabah earlier this week for a familiarisation trip that will



include a visit to Semporna.

Hosted by the Sabah Tourism Board (STB), the educational visit is also joined by renowned

Turkish diver and world record-holding freediver Şahika Ercümen.

Minister of Tourism, Culture and Environment Datuk Jafry Ariffin, hosted the delegation to dinner together with Permanent Secretary Datuk Sr Yusrie Abdullah and Sabah Tourism Board.

"Turkey has been on STB's radar as an emerging market. In late 2021, I was in Istanbul and met with outbound agents who were keen to explore travel offerings to Sabah. The embassy's trip to Sabah further reinstates its confidence that Sabah is a potential destination for Turkish travellers", he said.

During the visit, the Universiti Malaysia Sabah invited Kavakçı and her delegation to a talk session, during which Ercümen spoke about her passion for freediving and marine



(L-R) HE Merve Safa Kavakçı , Ambassador of Turkey to Malaysia handing over postcards to freediver Sahika Ercumen to be posted at Malaysia's first underwater postbox in Matakong.

conservation. She will then proceed to the east coast to produce a video on diving in Sabah.

Sabah is home to six protected marine parks managed by the



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Sabah Parks. The world-famous Sipadan Island Park and Tun Sakaran Marine Park are located in Semporna.

The Tun Sakaran Marine Park comprises of eight islands with crystal-clear water namely Bodgaya, Boheydulang, Tetagan, Selakan, Sebangkat, Maiga, Sibuan and Mantabuan.

The east coast district is also a gateway to paradise islands and some of the best muck diving sites such as Matakang, Kapalai, Mabul, and Bum-Bum.

STB chief executive officer Noredah Othman said Sabah, particularly Semporna, is rich in marine biodiversity, making it an ideal destination for ocean tourism.

"Killer whales, whale sharks, and dolphins are known to use Semporna waters as a migratory route, and these incredible sea creatures have been sighted numerous times by divers.

"Academics have also been drawn to Semporna's seabed to research marine life, and the



YB Datuk Jafry Ariffin presenting a memento to HE Merve Safa Kavakci. (L to R) Datuk Sr Yusrie Abdullah, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Environment Sabah, Ms Sahika Ercumen, World Record Holder Freediver, Pn Noredah Othman, CEO of Sabah Tourism Board.

potential for discovering new macro species is enormous. We do hope to get scuba divers in Turkey excited about new places to dive when our international borders reopen," she said.

"Ambassador Kavakci, in her concluding remarks, also drew attention to the importance of sustainability of the collaborative efforts between parties.

"Exchange of experience between Turkish and Sabahian scholars, scientists and academics would contribute to the well-establishment of our interaction thus the longevity of our collaboration," she stated.

Visit website: www.sabahtourism.com





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